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Congressional Documents.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE,
Washington, October 31, 1843.

SIR: In obedience to your instructions of the 26th ultimo, I have the honor to submit the annual report and estimates from this department.

The data on which the estimates for the subsistence of the army and for the expenses of this bureau are based are stated in detail on the estimates, and I have only to add that the estimate for subsisting the army is designed to provide for the expenses consequent on ordinary movements of troops.

At the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1844, there will be an unexpended balance of about \$200,000, applicable to the subsistence of the army for the succeeding year. This balance is attributable to the diminished cost of provisions on the Western frontier, and to the very limited movements of troops involving extraordinary expenses.

The troops have been supplied at all points with an abundance of wholesome provisions, and the accounts of the officers of this department have been promptly rendered.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE GIBSON, C. G. S.

Hon. J. M. PORTER,

Secretary of War.

REPORT OF THE PAYMASTER GENERAL.

PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, October 30, 1843.

SIR: I have the honor, herewith, to lay before you, the annual report of the state of the Pay department, for the fourth quarter of the year 1842, and first, second, and third quarters of the year 1843.

From the tabular statement that accompanies this it will be seen that the balances in the hands of the present paymasters, on the 1st October, 1842, amounted to \$605,762 07, and that subsequent there, to they received from the Treasury and other sources \$2,248,284 40, making the total sum to be accounted for \$2,854,046 47. Of this amount, \$2,571,426 71 have been expended and accounted for; the balance (\$282,619 76) is applicable to the payments that become due within the present quarter, and will, I have no doubt, be fully accounted for before the close of the quarter.

The troops are paid to as late dates as they have ever heretofore been when the annual statements were made out.

It is believed that all the militia claims that could be settled by the Pay department before being audited have been paid, and that no additional funds need be appropriated for that purpose, unless Congress should direct the payment of claims not now provided for by law.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. TOWSON, P. M. G.

Hon. J. M. PORTER,

Secretary of War.

REPORT OF THE SURGEON GENERAL.

SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,
October 31, 1843.

SIR: In obedience to your circular of the 26th of September, I have the honor to lay before you a statement of the fiscal transactions and a report upon the operations generally of the Medical department of the army.

The amount of the appropriation for the medical and hospital department remaining on the 30th of September, 1842—

In the hands of disbursing agents, - - - - -	\$2,999 94
In the Treasury of the United States, - - - - -	18,240 85

And the amount appropriated by the act of Congress approved the 1st of March, 1843—

For the half calendar year ending the 30th of June, 1843, -	9,500 00
For the fiscal year ending the 30th of June, 1844, -	25,000 00

Total - - - - -	\$55,740 79
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Of this sum, there has been paid at the Treasury—

On account of the pay and other claims of private physicians, - - - - -	6,047 19
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On account of medical and hospital supplies, - - -	1,405 99
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Also, this sum, paid to Boyd Reilly, by order of the Secretary of War, under an act of Congress of 3d March, 1843, for his patent right to a bathing apparatus, - - -	2,500 00
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And by disbursing agents, for medical and hospital supplies, meteorological instruments, books, furniture, &c., -	17,115 23
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Leaving a balance, on the	
30th June, 1843—	
In the hands of disbursing	
agents, - - -	1,421 58
And in the Treasury of the	
United States, - - -	27,250 80
Total, - - - - -	\$55,740 79

The medical supplies for the army have been furnished to all the military posts, by the medical purveyor at New York, with the utmost regularity and promptitude, and the articles provided have been of the best quality, and withal were purchased at the lowest possible cost.

Under the present method of supplying medical stores to the army, and the system of responsibility for the expenditure of the same, which was established a number of years ago, and which is now rigidly enforced, the expenses of the department have been brought down to the lowest possible standard compatible with a just liberality on the part of the Government.

During the last four or five years, the average cost of the medical supplies has been about \$2 60 per man per year; for the last twelve months, \$2 22 per man. Below this amount we cannot go without abridging the sick of some of the necessary comforts; but with this sum we have heretofore provided all the essential articles of medical stores, and we can continue to furnish every comfort and convenience which the officer or the enlisted soldier can reasonably expect or rightfully claim of the Government.

The returns of public property, embracing statements of purchases, expenditures, &c., required from the different military hospitals, were regularly rendered; and as these papers exhibited in detail every article of supply received, and satisfactorily accounted for all expenditures of the same, the accounts of the medical officers have been settled in this office up to the 30th of June, the close of the last fiscal year.

The number of cases of indisposition which have been under treatment in the army during the last twelve months (see report marked A) was 27,734; 26,820 of which occurred within the past year, 914 being cases that remained of the preceding year.

Of the whole number of sick, 26,513 have been restored to duty, 309 have been discharged the service, 18 have deserted, and 160 have died—leaving, on the 30th of September, 726 still on the sick report.

The mean strength of the army for the last twelve months has been about 9,863; and, as the number of sick during the same period was 27,734, and the aggregate of deaths was 160, it will appear that the proportion of cases of indisposition to the number of men in service was as $2\frac{81}{100}$ to 1, or 281 per cent.; the ratio of deaths to the number of men as 1 to 61 $\frac{1}{2}$, or a fraction less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; and the proportion of deaths to the number of cases treated, as 1 to 173 $\frac{27}{100}$, or $\frac{57}{100}$ per cent.

A medical board, for the examination of assistant surgeons for promotion, and of applicants for appointment to the medical staff of the army, was con-

vened in the city of New York on the 1st of July last.

Before this board, one assistant surgeon presented himself for examination, and, having been found qualified, he was recommended for promotion.

From among the applicants for appointment, twenty-four were invited to the examination, fourteen of whom only reported to the board, ten having declined, or failed to present themselves for examination. Of those who reported to the board, three afterwards withdrew without an examination, one was objected to on account of physical disqualifications, and ten were examined; and of these last, four were approved and recommended for appointment.

In conformity with the will of Congress, expressed and implied, an additional number of barometers have been purchased and placed at the prominent positions in our country, and the medical officers have been required to give all the attention to meteorology practicable, compatible with their duty to the sick and other higher obligations to the Government; so that, in addition to the thermometrical and other meteorological observations which have been heretofore received from the different military posts, we shall be able to report barometrical observations also from most of the important stations in the United States. From the report and accompanying charts of Mr. Espy, the meteorologist, herewith presented, (B.) it will be seen that he has been zealously engaged in prosecuting his investigations into the various phenomena accompanying storms, with the view of demonstrating the laws by which the whole are governed.

From data derived from observations taken in every section of the United States, Mr. Espy has, with very great labor, framed these maps, exhibiting to the eye, as he says, "the progress of storms through the United States from west to east, accompanied always with a depression of the barometer, and strong winds on each side blowing towards the line of least pressure," &c.

Charts like these he contemplates preparing quarterly throughout the year, should Congress deem it expedient to sanction the proceeding; and, as the work assigned him will not be complete, nor the result of his observations and investigations so clearly and satisfactorily illustrated without these exhibits of barometrical curves, &c., I respectfully recommend the project to the favorable consideration of those whose province it is to foster the undertaking.

I deem it to be my duty to call the attention of the Department of War and of Congress to the fact, that, at many of the forts on the seaboard, no proper buildings have been erected for the accommodation of the sick of the garrison. As a general rule, in the absence of all accommodations outside of the walls, some of the casemates of the fort are allotted to the purposes of a hospital, where, in addition to the want of privacy and deficiency of ventilation and of light, the sick are constantly annoyed by the tramping of the other men, and the clangor of their arms within the area of the fort, and frequently shocked by the thunder of the cannon and the rattling of the battlements over their heads.

In further illustration of my views on this subject, I beg leave to give here a transcript of my report, made on a late occasion, touching the propriety and the necessity of having distinct buildings for hospitals erected near our permanent fortifications:

"Whether the Engineer department estimates for funds with which to construct buildings for hospitals, or Congress, in their appropriations for fortifications, contemplate the erection of suitable permanent hospital establishments, I know not; but whatever may have been the practice or the opinions heretofore prevailing on this subject, it is a matter, in my humble judgment, deserving of the serious consideration of the Department of War. I hold that an appropriation of money for the building of fixed fortifications, or a permanent military work, provides not only for the construction of the walls of the fort and the batteries, but also for the erection of barracks, hospitals, and other indispensable accommodations for the men, sick and well, who are to occupy the post and serve the batteries.

"A military work without barracks, hospital, storehouses, &c., is incomplete. A fortification without these essential appurtenances is a mere battery—a work of inferior character, it seems to me, to those contemplated generally in the appropriation acts of Congress.

"As the officers of engineers are the persons who plan and superintend the construction of our permanent fortifications, they understand best the several points of offence and defence, and can better adapt the accommodations for the men to the size and figure of the work than any other agents of the Government. And as under a general contract for erecting a fortress, embracing barracks, hospitals, and other appurtenances, as well as the fortifications proper, better terms can be obtained than by a special agreement *afterwards* for the construction of the necessary accommodations for the officers and men, there cannot be a doubt as to the propriety of having the whole work done according to one original design, and under the control of one and the same department.

"The present seems to be an opportune time for me to give an expression of an opinion, also, touching another matter involving the health and efficiency of the men who are to garrison our fortifications. It is a question, and one which has never been satisfactorily decided, whether the casemates of a fort can be, with propriety, assigned exclusively as the quarters, &c., for the officers and men who are to occupy the work in time of peace.

"As a professional man, I have no hesitation in saying that, *in general*, casemated rooms cannot be occupied as quarters with the same prospect of health and comfort, that distinct buildings within the area of the fort, or outside the work, can afford.

"Were it possible to construct casemates so that they could be kept dry, and preserved also in a uniform temperature, military propriety, as well as economy, would seem to require that so much space within a garrison should not remain unappropriated. But, as our experience proves that casemated rooms are invariably damp, and with a temperature of air

very different, in summer and in winter, from the external atmosphere, it must be conceded that they are not, on the score of humanity or of economy *even*, (having reference to the sickness and permanent invaliding of the men,) suitable quarters for troops.

"Casemates, like the batteries of a fort, are intended for the purposes of war. They will give shelter and protection to the temporarily increased force of the garrison during the presence of an enemy; and men, under those circumstances, will readily submit to the necessities of the case. Until this time of need, however, I think it will be good policy to let the casemates remain bare walls, for the protection from the weather of spare cannon and other implements of war, reserving the money, that would otherwise be expended in fitting up these places as quarters, for the erection of distinct buildings for the accommodation of the officers and men who are to garrison the fort."

The objection to having barracks, hospitals, &c., erected outside the walls of our forts is, as I understand, that they destroy the military appearance of the place, and, by masking the rear battery, interfere with the fire from the guns on the line of defence.

This may be a valid objection with the scientific engineer, whose laudable pride it must be to display the fortress which he has erected in all its strength and grandeur of appearance. I, however, whose province it is to suggest measures conservative of health in the army, and whose duty it is, too, to advocate the cause of the sick and invalided soldier, cannot be brought to subscribe to the wisdom of a policy which would withhold from the officers and men who are to occupy these forts the ordinary comforts, and abridge them of the accommodations essential to their health, under the supposition that some time or other, perhaps in the hundredth year, the work may be attacked, and the use of all the guns required, unencumbered with a hospital or other buildings outside of the fortification. Barracks, hospitals, &c., distinct from the walls of the fort, (and which can be built at as little expense, I apprehend, as fitting up casemates for quarters,) will give accommodation and comfort to the garrison for forty or fifty years; and should, eventually, one or two of our many works of defence be besieged or stormed by an enemy, why, the buildings that mask the guns or cover the assailants may be readily burnt down, or battered down by our own cannon.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

TII. LAWSON.

Surgeon General.

Hon. J. M. PORTER,

Secretary of War.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER.

ENGINEER DEPARTMENT.

Washington, November 2, 1843.

SIR: In compliance with your orders, I have the honor to submit my report on the several operations in progress during the year, under the direction of this office, together with estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1845.

MILITARY DEFENCES.

As stated in my reports of two or three preceding years, the leading objects of this department have been to advance, as fast as possible, the new system of defences, maintaining at the same time its finished portions in the best condition for service; and also to avail, to the utmost, of the strength afforded by remaining works of the old system. Within the present year I have made a personal inspection of every fortification in course of repair or construction under this office, excepting only one at Detroit, and five on the Southern coast; and it is very gratifying to be able to state, that I have every where found the officers and agents applying themselves with the utmost diligence and zeal to the prosecution of those objects. An examination into the systems of accounts, with the mode of transacting the current business of hiring, bargaining, and purchasing; of supervising, directing, and disposing of labor; and into the quality of material and workmanship, has fully satisfied me that all are animated by one common feeling of devotion to the public interest, applying both their time and faculties in the most advantageous manner. The results of their labors are very evident, in the material progress within the year of all the works in hand.

The bringing to a close some of the larger and more expensive works of the new system of defence leads naturally to the commencement of other members of the system which have been unavoidably delayed. Of these, some of the most urgent necessity were brought to the notice of the Government last year, and not then for the first time; and, though pressed upon the attention of Congress by the Executive, and favorably noticed by the Military Committee of the House, were not acted upon. In again presenting these, (in their geographical position, in the following description, and in a separate estimate,) for the sanction of the Government, I beg leave to repeat a remark or two heretofore made on the effect of the rate of appropriation upon the cost of public works.

First. Economy of construction requires that the annual grants be as large as can be advantageously applied; the expenses of management and supervision being nearly the same, whether the expenditure be larger or smaller, and there being a considerable expenditure every year, in adapting the work to the season. So far as the expenses called "contingent" are concerned, the same work may be erected for half the money in a given number of years, that would be necessary were the labors spun out to twice that period.

Secondly. The rate of appropriation should, for the same work, be as nearly uniform as may be; because, after operations are once organized, any change will involve more or less loss; and if the change be sudden and considerable, this loss can hardly fail to be of some magnitude.

I also beg leave to repeat a remark on another point essential to the most advantageous application of moneys granted by Congress for fortifications. Transfers from one item of appropriation for fortification to another, have been made under existing

laws, by former Presidents of the United States; but they have also, by others, been declined, under the same laws, as of doubtful legality. As important results are sometimes dependent on the exercise of this power, it is very desirable to obtain a clear expression of the intention of Congress, by a declaratory act, or in some other way.

Defensive works near Detroit, Michigan.—The commencement of this work was delayed to secure possession of a very important enlargement of its site, being part of a large tract confirmed by Congress (March 3, 1843) to the heirs of Todd and McGill, on condition that this portion should be ceded for a just equivalent to the United States.

Every step dictated by the law was taken by the United States, under advisement with the Attorney General, but the claimants protested against the proceeding and the appraisement. After unavailing delay, the engineer officer under direction of the War Department, has taken possession of the land, laid out the fort, and commenced operations on a small scale. A wharf has been built, 50 feet square, of timber filled in with stone, and connected with the shore by a bridge. The sum of \$50,000 was appropriated for the work in 1841: of this, \$5,813 96 had been expended on the 30th September last, and \$3,662 75 stands pledged to cover the amount appraised for the land above mentioned. The balance undrawn from the Treasury on the 1st of January next will revert thereto at that time. Its reappropriation early in the session is very desirable.

Balance in the Treasury on the 30th September, 1843,	\$39,245 00
To be drawn from the Treasury in the 4th quarter of 1843, to be ready to meet the amount of the appraisement, and for other purposes,	11,000 00
Probable amount liable to revert, and estimated to be reappropriated for the half year ending December 31, 1844,	28,245 00
Estimate of the additional amount required to be appropriated for the half year ending December 31, 1844,	20,000 00
Estimate of the amount required to be appropriated for the half year ending June 30, 1845,	20,000 00

Defensive works at Buffalo.—A commencement was made early in the past summer of a battery and defensive tower on a commanding point between Buffalo and Black Rock.

The excavation for the tower and surrounding ditch has been finished, with the exception of a strip left for a roadway. About one-half of the earthen counterscarp has been sodded; nearly all the foundation of the breast-height wall of the covered way has been laid; the terreplein of the covered way raised to its proper height, and the glacis nearly formed; the principal drain has been finished; the foundations of the tower and the cisterns connected therewith finished. The principal items of work are—13,438 cubic yards of excavation, 13,356 of embankment, 284 of concrete, 787 cubic yards of rubble masonry, and 1,023 square yards of sodding. The sum of \$50,000 was appropriated for this work in

September, 1841. The balance undrawn January 1, 1844, will revert to the Treasury, and its reappropriation at an early day is urgently requested.

Balance in the Treasury on the 30th

September, 1843, - - -	\$23,500 00
To be drawn from the Treasury in the 4th quarter of 1843, - - -	10,000 00
Probable amount liable to revert, and estimated to be reappropriated for the half year ending December 31, 1844, - - -	13,500 00
Estimate of the additional amount required to be appropriated for the half year ending December 31, 1844, - - -	6,500 00
Estimate of the amount required to be appropriated for the half year ending June 30, 1845, - - -	15,000 00

Fort Niagara, New York.—This fort is now nearly finished—quite so as to all expensive operations—and is in a very good condition as regards defence. The principal labors of the year have comprised a reconstruction of the face of the lake wall, which was in a dilapidated state, and surmounting it with a line of palisades; regulating and sodding the river bank in face of the fort; and finishing the repairs of the magazine and of the two interior stone block-houses. The latter were designed as defensive works merely, but the repairs have been applied in a way to make them, in case of necessity, available for accommodation to the garrison, at the same time that the defensive properties have been materially improved. The magazine is quite large, and has been put in perfect condition. A furnace for hot shot has been erected.

The repair or reconstruction of barracks, quarters, and storehouses, within the fort, is very necessary, but it is supposed to belong to another department.

Certain works constructed upon the shore, to arrest the abrading action of the current, have been very successful; and, so far as regards the actual site of the fort, the means at command are deemed adequate to execute the further work required for this, as it is for other objects. The engineer officer in charge reports, however, that the river is acting upon the shore above the work in a way to threaten serious injury, and we may, some time hence, have to call for the means of preventing it.

There is no balance in the Treasury to the credit of this work. No further appropriation is now asked.

Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York.—On the 30th September last, this fort, with its outworks, was essentially finished, and in a good state of defence. A company of infantry has been quartered in the barracks since January last. The operations of the year have been principally as follows: More than one-half the counterscarp of the main work has been revetted with kyanized wood; the breast-height of the covered way has been revetted with timber, and three traverses erected on the terreplein of one of its fronts; a traverse has also been erected, covering the sortie passage through the place of arms in front of the postern; a good deal of sodding has been executed; twelve gun platforms have been laid in the fort, and one at the salient of the demilune. Some slight improvements are necessary, to render the work complete

the ditch should be better drained, and some of the exterior embankments adjusted. The soldiers' barrack is finished, and a building has been erected for officers' quarters, and another to furnish store room, offices, guard room, and prison. A strong sea wall, 301 feet in length, has been constructed during the year, at the bottom of the more exposed part of the bank. Another building for officers' quarters is found to be necessary, to provide fully for the garrison; and a further extension of the sea wall is believed to be important to the preservation of the parts of the shore still exposed. For these purposes the further sums stated below are requisite, on the estimates of the officer in charge, there being nothing now in the Treasury.

Estimate of the amount required to be appropriated for the half year ending December 31, 1844, - - -	\$7,000 00
Estimate of the amount required to be appropriated for the half year ending June 30, 1845, - - -	7,000 00

Fortifications at the outlet of Lake Champlain.—The United States having reacquired, by treaty with Great Britain, possession of Rouse's point, it is proposed to erect a fort on that position, in lieu of the two forts formerly contemplated for points further south, and for which projects had been carefully prepared. This change of position necessarily involved a new study of the subject, and active operations have been unavoidably delayed until the board of engineers could complete their plans and estimates, which will soon be done.

The sum of \$75,000 was appropriated for this object in 1841, of which a large proportion will revert to the Treasury on the 1st of January next, unless, as is urgently requested, it be reappropriated at an early day.

Balance in the Treasury on the 30th September, 1843, - - -	\$73,373 44
To be drawn from the Treasury in the 4th quarter of 1843, on the estimate of the officer in charge, - - -	15,065 34
Probable amount liable to revert, and estimated to be reappropriated for the half year ending December 31, 1844, - - -	58,308 10
Estimate of the amount required to be appropriated for the half year ending June 30, 1845, - - -	25,000 00

Fort at the Narrows of the Penobscot, Maine.—Congress, at its last session, diverted an appropriation of \$25,000 that had been formerly made for defensive works, barracks, &c., for a projected depot at the junction of the Mattawamkeag and Penobscot, to the purchase of a site and commencement of defensive works at or near the Narrows of the Penobscot; and as soon as an officer could be spared for the purpose, one was sent to this last-named spot, with the necessary instructions in reference to the purchase of a site. This negotiation is well advanced; and it is expected that, during the winter, a purchase, on reasonable terms will be made of all the land actually necessary. If so, a commencement may be made of the projected works early in the ensuing summer.

Balance in the Treasury on the 30th
September, 1843, - - - \$25,000 00
To be drawn from the Treasury in the
4th quarter of 1843, - - - 7,000 00
To be drawn from the Treasury in the
1st and 2d quarters of 1844, - 15,000 00
No additional appropriation is asked at present.

Fort Preble, Portland harbor, Maine.—The two powder magazines have been rendered bomb-proof by considerable additions to the masonry of the walls and roofs; they have been supplied with electrical conductors and the means of a more perfect ventilation. The pintle and traverse arrangements have been established for mounting barbette guns to defend the land approaches; and more room has been given to the terreplein near each of these guns. The drainage generally has been improved.

The appropriation for this work is very nearly exhausted. It is proposed to give next year the requisite increase to the stability of the pintle blocks established in 1841, by means of the appropriation for incidental expenses attending repairs of fortifications. This old fort will then be in good repair throughout, and possess all the efficiency that can be given to it.

Balance in the Treasury on the 30th
September, 1843, - - - \$83 89
To be drawn from the Treasury in the
4th quarter of 1843, - - - 83 89
No further appropriation is asked.

Fort Scammel, Portland harbor, Maine.—The repairs of this work recommenced in June last. Improvements were made to the powder magazine, similar to those detailed in the report of Fort Preble; slight extensions of the rampart walls along the gorge, and other arrangements in each of the circular wings, were made for improving the command of the battery over the eastern part of the harbor; extensive repairs were made of the wooden block-house, and complete arrangements of its interior, including the construction of a small powder magazine. Considerable progress was also made in repairing and extending the old battery, commanding the eastern channels of the harbor.

It is designed to complete the block-house this year, in order that it may be availed of as an extension of barrack room for the troops in the harbor. It was erected as a defensive work merely, but the repairs have had reference to the matter of accommodation also, and in that respect it will now be found a convenience to the garrison.

The appropriation for this work being very nearly exhausted, it is proposed to finish the repairs commenced from the appropriation for incidental expenses attending repairs of fortifications; and, accordingly, no further grant is now asked.

Balance in the Treasury on the 30th
September, 1843, - - - \$80 19
To be drawn from the Treasury in the
4th quarter of 1843, - - - 80 19

Fort McClary, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.—The sum of \$5,000 was appropriated for this work in August, 1842. The officer in charge of these repairs, having also charge of Forts Preble, Scammel, and Constitution, has not yet been able to commence

operations at Fort McClary. The work will be commenced at the expiration of the coming winter, and will embrace additions to the walls and roof of the magazine, to render the same bomb-proof; the construction of a wooden block-house, and of two small brick buildings for flank defence; additions in height to the parapet embankment of the upper battery, and other minor operations.

Balance in the Treasury on the 30th
September, 1843, - - - \$4,845 12
To be drawn from the Treasury in the
4th quarter of 1843, - - - 2,000 00
To be drawn from the Treasury in the
1st and 2d quarters of 1844, - 2,845 12
No further appropriation is asked at present.

Fort Constitution, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.—The repairs of this fort, which were recommenced in August—the earliest day at which an officer could be assigned to them—have been confined to the following objects: improving the powder magazines in the manner detailed in the report of Fort Preble; adjusting the breast-height wall at the southwest salient and near the northeast shoulder, and preparing to place a gun at each point, for flank defence; preparing, also, to establish four guns on the land front, to defend land approaches. The guard-house has been slightly repaired.

The funds still available for this work will be applied this fall and the coming spring to repairing the wooden platform along the south front, laying a stone coping on the parade wall, renewing some decayed gates, increasing the stability of the pintle centres established in the fall of 1841, and various other slight repairs.

Balance in the Treasury on the 30th
September, 1843, - - - \$3,000 00
To be drawn from the Treasury in the
4th quarter of 1843, - - - 2,000 00
To be drawn from the Treasury in the
1st and 2d quarters of 1844, - 1,000 00
No further appropriation is now asked.

Sea wall of Deer island, Boston harbor, Massachusetts.—Certain portions of these walls, which had been partially injured by severe storms, have been repaired, and breakwaters constructed, to ensure future protection. The pavement also has been repaired.

A balance of \$400 remains in the agent's hands, applicable to future repairs.

No further appropriation is now asked.

Sea wall of Rainsford island, Boston harbor.—This work is now complete and in good condition throughout.

Breakwaters have been constructed near the extremities, and the wall at both ends raised to the height of the intermediate portions; the embankment and pavement in rear of the wall have been repaired.

No further repairs being necessary at present, no further appropriation is asked.

Protection of Lovell's island, Boston harbor Massachusetts.—The masonry of the sea wall was commenced in the last of July, and completed on the 11th of October. The embankment in rear of the

wall is also completed. A top pavement, which is carried back 25 feet from the face of the wall, is probably done by this time. This wall is 806 feet in length, from 13 to 14 feet high, and about six feet thick. It is of the most substantial character; the average weight of the stones, consisting of stretchers about 8 feet long, dovetailing with headers from 4 to 5 feet long, is not less than two tons, all laid in cement mortar. The facing stone is backed with concrete, composed of gravel and cement mortar.

Balance in the Treasury on the 30th

September, 1843, - - - \$5,500 00

To be drawn from the Treasury in the

4th quarter of 1843, - - - 4,000 00

To be drawn from the Treasury in the

1st and 2d quarters of 1844 - - - 1,500 00

To complete this wall and its appurtenances, no further appropriation is asked.

West Head battery and Southeast battery, Governor's island, Boston harbor, Massachusetts.—These batteries remain in the same condition as at my last report—there being needed to put them in an efficient state only some trifling operations, that can be soon executed whenever necessary. It is, however, deemed by the board of engineers, with whom I fully concur, to be important to the system of defence in this harbor to bring the whole of the island on which these small batteries stand within the system, as affording positions secondary in importance only to those occupied by Forts Warren and Independence. To this end, it becomes necessary to purchase the portion now belonging to individuals, with whom negotiations have been opened, and from whom offers, deemed to be reasonable, have been received. In view of this result, the department has abstained from expending more money on the small works named, deeming it a better disposition of the unexpended balance to apply it toward the purchase of the island. At the present time, an appropriation of \$3,000 will suffice, with the balance remaining of the appropriations for the batteries, to secure this most desirable object; and such appropriation is accordingly earnestly solicited. The balance mentioned has, however, been held until it is about to revert, and should therefore be reappropriated at an early day toward the purchase of the site.

Balance in the Treasury on the 30th

September, 1843, - - - \$7,292 78

Amount liable to revert, and estimated

to be reappropriated toward the pur-

chase of the site, for the half year

ending December 31, 1844, - - - 7,292 78

Estimate of the additional amount re-

quired to be appropriated for the pur-

case of the site for the half year end-

ing December 31, 1844, - - - 3,000 00

No appropriation is asked for the half year ending June 30, 1845.

Fort Independence, Boston, Massachusetts.—This work is rapidly approaching completion. The scarp of curtain No. 5, except a small gap for the postern gate, has been finished, thereby completing the enclosure of the work; the casemate and postern arches of this section have been turned and roofed in

concrete; the parade wall of the same front has been completed; the carronade traverse circles, 18 in number, have been laid in all the flanks save one; one platform has been laid on curtain No. 2, completing the platforms for casemate guns; the concrete floorings of the curtain and left flank of No. 2, of the right of No. 3, and of the galleries connecting therewith, have been laid; four gun embrasures have been completed on curtain No. 2; the terrepleins of the main work, except on curtain No. 5, have been embanked; the parapets of three faces and one entire front have been embanked, and the exterior slopes sodded; on fronts 2, 3, and 4, the exterior ground has been nearly all graded; it is proposed to complete this operation on all the fronts this season. More than 2,400 cubic yards of granite have been laid during the year, in the sea wall for the preservation of the site. This work is well advanced.

Balance in the Treasury on the 30th

September, 1843, - - - \$62,016 91

To be drawn from the Treasury in the

fourth quarter of 1843, - - - 13,000 00

To be drawn from the Treasury in the

1st and 2d quarters of 1844, - - - 30,000 00

No appropriation required for the half year ending December 31, 1844.

Estimate of the amount required to be appropriated for the half year ending

June 30, 1845, - - - 15,000 00

Fort Warren, Boston harbor, Massachusetts.—Most important progress has been made since the last report, in operations upon this work, and in a way to add materially to the present security of the harbor. Excepting a small opening at the gateway, the exterior wall is finished, and extensive preparations have been made for the immediate mounting, if necessary, of many guns.

The quantity of masonry laid during the year amounts to 6,022.50 cubic yards; sodding, 2,176 square yards; asphaltic casemate roofing, 354 square yards.

On front No. 1.—The old sea wall has been improved for a length of about 275 running feet, by laying thereon two additional courses of heavy granite blocks, substituting rubble and gravel for the earth in rear, and renewing the pavements; 110 running feet of the parade wall raised to the height of about 11 feet; the breast-height wall completed; its parapet embanked and sodded; glacis embanked; ditch graded; earth work of the whole exterior front completed.

On front No. 2.—One hundred and sixty running feet of the parade wall completed; terreplein of the coverface graded, and the platforms laid for the battery of this outwork, now ready for its full armament of forty six guns.

On front No. 3.—Scarp wall completed, except 21 feet in the curtain near the intended gateway; all but two of the piers of the curtain completed; and the foundation of the parade wall commenced.

On front No. 4.—Inclined gallery built, leading from the parade grounds to the casemate of the left flank; ditch graded; parapets of the curtain, left flank, and left face, embanked and sodded.

On front No. 5.—The arches of the flank casemates have been turned, and the galleries communicating therewith constructed; the parapets of the right face, right flank, and a portion of the curtain, have been embanked; and the excavation of the ditch completed.

There are now upon the work, ready to be laid, 129 sets of traverse circles and 92 sets of pintle stones, for pieces in barbette; for which the terrepleins of fronts Nos. 4 and 5 are prepared.

The operations contemplated next year are the completion of the parade wall on portions of fronts Nos. 1, 2, and 5; turning and capping with concrete 15 casemate arches on front No. 3; and the construction of the sea wall and parapet in front of the ravelin No 5.

Balance in the Treasury on the 30th

September, 1843, - - - \$60,285 75

To be drawn from the Treasury in the fourth quarter of 1843, - - - 17,000 00

To be drawn from the Treasury in the 1st and 2d quarters of 1844, - - - 31,000 00

No appropriation required for the half year ending December 31, 1844.

Estimate of the amount required to be appropriated for the half year ending

June 30, 1845, - - - 30,000 00

Old fort in New Bedford harbor, Massachusetts.—

This work is in the same condition as was exhibited in my last annual report. I hoped to have been able ere this to ask the sanction of the Government to a project of a new work of defence for this very important and exposed harbor; it has not been possible, however, for the board of engineers to take up the subject, or for me to spare an officer for that duty. It will be attended to at as early a day as practicable, but until a project is duly prepared and sanctioned, no appropriation will be necessary.

Fort Adams, Newport harbor, Rhode Island.—This work, although in an efficient and defensible state, and for some time occupied by a garrison, is not yet finished as regards several smaller matters essential to convenience, accommodation, preservation, and greater security. Many of these have been for the greater part disposed of during the past season—such as having casemates and terrepleins, pointing, sodding, laying drains, making bridges, doors, windows, erecting wharf walls, &c. Great progress has been made at the advanced redoubt, of which the little masonry remaining to be executed will, it is hoped, be finished early next year.

The funds already appropriated are thought to be sufficient within about \$5,000 for the service of the next calendar year.

Balance in the Treasury on the 30th

September, 1843, - - - \$19,800 00

To be drawn from the Treasury in the 4th quarter of 1843, - - - 4,800 00

To be drawn from the Treasury in the 1st and 2d quarters of 1844, - - - 10,000 00

Estimate of the amount required to be appropriated for the half year ending

31 December, 1844, - - - 5,000 00

Estimate of the amount required to be

appropriated for the half year ending

June 30, 1845 - - - 10,000 00

Fort Griswold, New London harbor, Connecticut.

—The advanced battery is complete, and ready for its entire armament of 20 guns. Its magazine is also finished. It is designed to build a thin wall around the magazine, and also to erect a furnace for heating shot; and both these objects would have been accomplished during the past summer, had it been in my power to consult on the spot with the engineer officer in charge, as to their proper positions and dimensions. Both these points were adjusted at my late visit, and will be attended to early in the coming year.

Balance in the Treasury on the 30th

September, 1843 - - - \$1,400 00

To be drawn from the Treasury in the

4th quarter of 1843, - - - 1,400 00

No further appropriation asked for Fort Griswold at present.

Fort Trumbull, New London, Connecticut.—Operations during the past year have been confined chiefly to completing the scarps of the four bastions, and of four of the five curtains—the whole scarp being now up, except the east curtain, and a small part of the north; grading the esplanade of the north-east and east fronts; removing part of the old work, and quarrying granite. Of the work executed, the principal items are: 3,125 cubic yards of stone masonry in mortar; 170½ cubic yards of brick masonry; 4,714 square feet of stone cutting; 5,686 cubic yards of earth removed; 362 square yards of sodding; and 206 cubic yards of rock quarried.

The exterior battery is finished, and ready to receive its armament of eleven barbette guns; parades of this battery finished, except breast-height wall and banquettes. The block-house has been repaired and made bomb-proof. The place of arms is entirely finished, and ready to receive its armament of six barbette guns. The gorge piers of the several bastions are complete; the piers of north and west curtains are complete, except two of the former and one of the latter; all but one of the casemate arches of the western curtain have been turned.

The unexpended balance will be applied chiefly to casemate piers and arches of the main work.

Balance in the Treasury on the 30th

September, 1843, - - - \$36,900 00

To be drawn from the Treasury in the 4th quarter of 1843, - - - 10,000 00

To be drawn from the Treasury in the 1st and 2d quarters of 1844, - - - 21,000 00

Estimate of the amount required to be appropriated for the half year ending

December 31, 1844, - - - 20,000 00

Estimate of the amount required to be appropriated for the half year ending

June 30, 1845, - - - 20,000 00

(To be continued.)

The total number of vessels of every description at present in commission of the British Navy is 227, viz: 11 line-of-battle ships, 29 frigates, 113 sloops and cutters, and 74 steamers.

Foreign Miscellany.

NOTES ON DESERTION IN THE ARMY.

INTEMPERANCE and desertion have been frequently indicated as the plague spots upon the British Army; and two fouler blots could scarcely disfigure the moral character of any military body, or more effectually impair its utility. The first of these evils has passed almost into a proverb as characteristic of, or identical with our Army. Let it not, however, be supposed that the soldier was at any time more obnoxious to the charge of drunkenness, than many other classes of the community; nay, we are disposed to contend that he was in strict justice less culpable than others in this respect: but, unhappily, intemperance was the national characteristic, and whilst foreigners were compelled to admit the hardy valor and unconquerable firmness, the humanity and generosity of the British soldier, they could still reproach him with being the slave of this most disgusting and degrading propensity.

Of late years, much pains have been taken to check these prevailing habits of drunkenness; habits which, however prejudicial both to the health and prosperity of the individual, are to be deprecated in a tenfold degree when existent in the soldier, and considered with reference to the results which might so readily spring from the temporary absence or suspension of the controlling power of reason, in one, upon whose conduct and vigilance, the safety and lives of thousands may depend.

Hence have arisen the stringent orders, and minute legislative details, for the government of soldiers which have for some years back teemed from the portals of the Horse Guards. Hence the careful system of defaulters' books; the marked distinction of all crimes of drunkenness, by directing that the entry of all such shall be in red ink; hence the new system of rewards by increased pay, made dependant, not on long service as heretofore, but on sobriety and good conduct; for the two are inseparable.

In addition to these, we may notice the prescribed and inevitable penalties for offences against sobriety; the strenuous injunction of a *daily* issue of pay to the soldier, and lastly some faint indication of a desire to lead, instead of to drive him into better courses, by providing him with books and a reading room; affording him, if not much enticement, yet at any rate an alternative to the only resource which he formerly possessed, the canteen or ale-house.

The march of improvement is proverbially slow, and in no department does it drag its weary length along so sluggishly as in the Army. How few are the means yet employed to wean the soldier from the fascinations of drink! How scanty the resources afforded him for rational recreation or mental improvement! For how long were the mischievous and insane regulations regarding troops in tropical climates, denounced by experienced and practical persons, without an effort being made to remedy them, or perhaps even a thought bestowed by those in power, upon the evils which they were working!

Barracks ill built, and yielding inadequate accom-

modations, in pestilential climates; unhealthy sites selected when eligible ones were available; salt provisions issued twice and thrice a week to men in a West Indian temperature, by way of provocative, nay, rendering it almost necessary for them to drink to excess; recruits put on board a ship for a six months' voyage, paraded at a tub to drink their allowance of grog,—lads who probably then and there first tasted spirits. Again, spirits in kind forming a portion of the soldier's rations, and in many quarters a double measure of spirits was allowed. Nor was the man permitted to receive compensation in lieu of it, and having received it, he was prohibited from disposing of it, so that he must either drink it against his inclination, or leave it as a perquisite and source of profit to the Government. These are only selections from a long list of similar absurdities, if indeed they may be so lightly stigmatized, and in looking back at them, the rational being, or one unstudied in the ways of the world, could but wonder how such abuses and malpractices could have been so long persevered in. Motives of interest, and even of economy, might have suggested a different mode of treatment.

Is it after this surprising that the British soldier should have been addicted to drunkenness, in at least an equal degree with the rest of his countrymen? We trust and believe that he is now redeeming his character touching this vice; that he is not far behind, in that onward movement, that tendency to improvement, which has sprung from the intellectual development of the age, from habits of thoughtfulness, and consequent refinement of sentiment and manners, which are evinced by a preference for mental and rational enjoyments, over the gratification of mere brutal, demoralizing, and sensual indulgences.

Regarding the other blemish upon our Army,—the crime of desertion. If this evil have been as readily acknowledged as the other, if its inconveniences have been equally felt and deprecated, we believe that as little attention has been devoted to the remedying of it, and perhaps less effectual measures have been adopted for the checking of it. It is enough with many to know that desertion is common in the British Army—the fact is asserted, and assented to; the mischievous and troublesome effects which spring from it are indisputable, yet few take the trouble even to inquire to what extent the crime really exists, and would, perhaps, be startled at the actual numbers if laid before them. Fewer still care to examine into the probable causes of the evil, or to seek for a remedy.

The frequency of its occurrence familiarizes us to the fact, and when a case is brought judicially before officers, the moral turpitude of the offence is almost lost sight of.

This is lamentable. The real nature of the crime of desertion, the offence against honesty, truth, and good faith which it involves, independently of the inconvenience it may entail on the Service, should ever be borne in mind and inculcated on the soldier. It has recently become customary,—a custom originating in the frequency of the crime,—to visit it with a light punishment. Recruits upon their first offence

are often pardoned; and for a second, the penalty is usually light, perhaps a few weeks' imprisonment. In the case of recruits not finally approved, their bounty is forfeited; and when we come to consider the number of those thus pecuniarily mulcted, it will become almost a question whether the Government does not positively derive a profit from this species of delinquency.

Very strong doubts may be entertained of the propriety of thus visiting an offence of the nature of desertion. It does not work beneficially for either party. There are few recruits, who, on desertion, enter into a financial calculation of the loss they sustain by forfeiture of a sum of money which, at any rate, was never intended to reach their hands in the shape of hard cash. When deprived of it, they are much in the happy position of a person robbed, yet unconscious of his loss. So much for the salutary application of the measure to the recruit.

If, on the other hand, there be any validity in the objection so frequently urged against the present appropriation of the bounty, as having in it something of fraudulence, in withholding from the recruit the uncontrolled disposition of what he might naturally regard as his own property; if he be dissatisfied and disgusted at finding himself, whilst the nominal possessor of 3*l.* 5*s.*, without a farthing in his pocket, during the irksome period that he is undergoing the drudgery of instruction drill, how infinitely must his discontent be increased, how reckless will he become of the ties which bind him to the Service, when on rejoining from desertion, he finds himself destined to be under close stoppages for some months, to pay for his outfit in a profession which is already sufficiently distasteful to him.

In the case of every recruit who deserts before final approval (and it will appear that these average seven hundred and fifty per annum,) there is a saving of 3*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, the reserved proportion of levy money not disbursed until the recruit has joined the ranks at head-quarters. This, of course, can only be reckoned a *saving* when the recruit is finally recovered to the Service, which we believe to be the case five times out of six. In the remaining instances there is, of course, a loss of the sum already expended on the deserter.

We are by no means advocates for unnecessary harshness, or a severe penal code, but we doubt either the moral justice, or the expediency of dealing lightly with the crime of desertion. Every effort should be made to attach to it an idea of ignominy, instead of treating it as a venial offence. We would be very chary of restoring to the deserter those privileges, which, by the 38th Article of War, he forfeits on conviction. A *long* term of good service should alone remove this disability to claim additional pay or pension on discharge. Moreover, during this probationary period, the convicted deserter should be ineligible for promotion, furlough, employment on the recruiting service, or any other indulgence whatever.

The frightful extent to which desertion now prevails in the Army, demands immediate and rigid interference. The crime will be found to be almost

entirely confined to the United Kingdom. Our Colonies, with one exception, are unfavorable to the successful adoption of the practice. In North America only is encouragement afforded by the facility of escape from pursuit, the certainty of employment, and the dazzling, but often delusive prospect of pecuniary advantage. In none other of our foreign stations, do the same inducements or facilities present themselves.

In a country to which he is a stranger, amongst a people whose language, habits, and even food are different from his own, where is a wandering soldier to find refuge, employment, or sustenance? He may travel through a hundred dangers and difficulties into the interior for a lurking place, or towards the sea-coast in hopes of shipping on board some vessel; but this is but a precarious chance of escape, and if he be not apprehended, he will probably be too happy to return and surrender himself. We have in India seen such cases as these, and have noticed that one experiment usually suffices to cure erratic propensities. Desertion was at one time prevalent in the Ionian Command. It was a favorite scheme to cross over to the Albanian coast, where pursuit was impracticable, even if a desire for it existed; but the evil has there worked its own cure.

We recollect receiving the revelations of a deserter, who returned, and voluntarily surrendered himself, after having wandered about for four years in the Turkish provinces, and in Greece; at one time soldiering in the Greek army; at another supporting himself by his trade; and, as the result of his experience, he declared that he had suffered more hardships during his absence of four years, than he should have endured had he remained at his duty for five times that period. Moreover, he acknowledged that deserters were no longer received with open arms by the Greek Government, who have probably discovered that such gentry are unprofitable servants, and that a runaway from one service rarely proves an acquisition to any other.

We have not at hand full materials for presenting a statement of the extent of desertion throughout the Service, nor from what we have previously shown, does it seem that such data would materially further our purpose.

The details which we shall proceed upon are drawn from the War Office List, published in the London Police Gazette, and thus, it must be recollected, is almost entirely confined to a register of deserters in the United Kingdom. It does indeed include two or three stray cases reported from the West Indies and New South Wales; but no account is there taken of the desertions in North America.

These have not appeared in this document for some time back. We remember that some four years ago, half a page of each Gazette would be occupied with desertions from Toronto, and other Canadian stations; frequently fifteen and twenty men from the same regiment, and at one time and place. It has been thought advisable to discontinue publishing a record, which was certainly neither creditable nor useful. It was judiciously done. The end of detection, at any rate, was not likely to be promoted by

the *exposé*, since England was probably the last spot to which the parties had any intention of returning.

During the half year ending the 31st August, 1843, no less than 1510 deserters appear in the War Office List, giving an annual loss of upwards of 3000 men by desertion, upon a force of about 43,000 in the United Kingdom. Thus, one man in every fourteen is a deserter. Of the 1510 above quoted, only 147, or less than one tenth, were twenty-five years of age or upwards, whilst of these, only twenty-two individuals had attained to thirty-five, and but one was over forty years old. In the same number, 370, or nearly one-fourth, had never joined their regiment, or had not been finally approved. From this we deduce the fact, that desertion is almost entirely confined to those who are youngest in years, and in the service.

Youth is the season of thoughtlessness, of restlessness, and impatience of restraint; and it must be likewise taken into account, that amongst the recruits, who constitute it seems one-fourth of the deserters, are many who have enlisted under the passing and short-lived influences of anger, disappointment, drunkenness, and absolute want or destitution, from being temporarily thrown out of employment. These motives once removed or overcome, any moral scruples connected with the obligation they have incurred, are altogether overlooked or disregarded.

We scarcely think that the decreased tendency to desertion amongst soldiers, as they increase in years and service, can be adduced as strong argument in favor of a growing satisfaction with their condition, or the gradual conviction coming home to them that they are better off as soldiers than they could otherwise be. If there be something attributable to these causes, there is still more due to the universal and natural effect of habit. Moreover, there is no doubt that we all, by degrees, become reconciled to our own particular vocation or calling, be it ever so toilsome or unenviable. Something of pride and attachment to his profession; a sense of duty, however weak, with a dread of shame, and the opinion of his comrades, must likewise have some influence, and be constantly acquiring additional strength in the soldier as his services are prolonged. But beyond all, perhaps, is the knowledge that his own interests are at stake, and each year enhances the sacrifice he would make in forfeiting his services by desertion.

We have an opinion, that if the matter were tested, it would be found that the greatest amount of desertion is coupled with the greatest ignorance; and that this crime would be found to be least prevalent amongst the recruits drawn from those districts where education is most generally diffused. Thus Scotland, where the ratio of education is higher than in the rest of the United Kingdom, furnishes the smallest per-centage of deserters. Again, in Ireland, we believe that elementary education more extensively pervades the lower classes, than the same order in England, and that desertion will be found proportionately lower. The Cavalry is said, or supposed to be, drawn from a better class of men than the Line. The desertions from the former branch of the Service during the six months over which our observations extend, appear to be 70; those from the Artillery,

20; which numbers are both included in the aggregate of 1510, already named.

Viewing the numerical proportion which the Cavalry bears to the other branches of the Service at home, the desertions from the former amounting to only one-twenty-second of the entire number, are exceedingly low. This fact affords another argument for endeavoring to raise the character of the Army, by devising means to encourage enlistment amongst a superior class of men to that from whence our ranks are chiefly recruited.

In proportion as men rise in the intellectual scale we find their moral perceptions quickened; we observe less of that recklessness of consequences, that shameless disregard of all obligations, and that habitual devotion to gross and degrading pursuits which characterise the individual in his ignorant and semi-humanized condition.

This, after all, is the grand secret for improving the *morale* of our Army,—to hit upon an expedient for inducing others than the destitute, the starving, the lazy, the mere dregs and off-scouring of the population, to enlist and constitute the staple of our military force; but as long as character is totally disregarded, and sound limbs *only* are looked to,—so long as enlistment is for unlimited service, and confined to that only, and that the sole condition upon which a man may carry a musket is, that he shall sell himself for life, or for all such portion of it as his health and strength may last, so long do we debar ourselves from the most obvious, if not the only means, by which the moral condition of our Army can be ameliorated.—*United Service Magazine*.

THE PRESS AT SEA.—The Belleisle troopship, Capt. J. Kincombe, has brought home a curious specimen of ingenuity in the typographical art, which is no less than a printed log, in quarto shape, and tastefully "set up," of the arrival and sailing of the Belleisle from the different places at which she touched on her voyage from this port to China, as also some interesting remarks on the disposition of the troops on board during the voyage, and for some time after they had landed. This novel performance, executed on board of a man-of-war, was designed by Captain Edie, of the Grenadier Company of the 98th Regiment, who, it will be seen from the contents of the work, was the writer, compositor, pressman, and publisher, and even the constructor of the printing machine, and the manufacturer of his ink apparatus; and although it does not appear the gallant officer was the founder of his type, or that he made the paper, yet in the circumstances of such an operation by a soldier officer on the sea, a man-of-war on her voyage, containing a little town population, and the printing office, and the "working off" having been accomplished amidst the confusion of squalls, bustle, and sickness, it may fairly be said to have rivalled the extraordinary work of the Devonshire clergyman. The paper on which these interesting details is printed is Indian, red surface, colored, sprinkled with gold. The border of the pages is tastefully composed of the newly cast specimens of ornamental flowers, in which the captain's name is imprinted.

Proceedings in Congress.

The abstract of proceedings in Congress relative to the Army, Navy, Revenue Marine, &c., is commenced in this, the first number of a new volume, in order that, if Congress should adjourn as *early* as the first of July, a single volume may contain all the proceedings on those subjects. In the next number they will be brought up to the day of publication, and thenceforward be continued regularly each week.

Congress assembled on the First Monday in December. The Message of the President was read on Tuesday the 5th of December.

SENATE.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1843.

So much of the President's Message as relates to the Naval Service, was referred to the Committee on Naval affairs.

Mr. BARROW submitted the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Navy be directed to lay before the Senate the plan and estimate for a permanent wharf at Pensacola navy-yard, as designed by James Herron, civil engineer, and approved by the naval commandant of the station, acting under the instructions of the Navy Department.

And be it further resolved, That the Secretary of the Navy instruct Mr. Herron to prepare, for the purpose of being transmitted to the Senate, the plan of a dock, marine railway, or other suitable work, as shall, in the opinion of some engineer, be best adapted to the locality, and afford the greatest facility for the thorough repair of ships-of-war at Pensacola; accompanied by an estimate of the probable cost of constructing such work in the most permanent manner.

A Communication from the Navy Department, transmitting an abstract of the expenditures for the contingent expenses of the Navy, was referred to the Committee on Naval affairs.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1843.

Mr. CRITTENDEN presented a petition from numerous citizens of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, praying Congress to make an appropriation for the establishment of a Dry Dock at Philadelphia. Referred to the Committee on Naval affairs.

Mr. ATHERTON presented resolutions adopted by the Legislature of New Hampshire, instructing the Senators and requesting the Representatives from that State, to vote for the abolishment of the Military Academy at West Point. Referred to the Committee on Military affairs.

Mr. FULTON presented a petition from citizens of Connecticut, praying for the establishment of a Naval Depot and dock yard at Memphis, Tennessee. Referred to the Committee on Naval affairs.

Mr. BARROW introduced a joint resolution (which was read twice and referred) proposing to detail from the corps of engineers in the service of the United States, a competent officer for the purpose of making an examination and survey of the mouth of the Red River, with a view to determine on the best mode of

removing the bar and other obstructions to said river, and appropriate \$2,000 for that purpose.

On motion of Mr. CRITTENDEN, so much of the President's Message as relates to military affairs was referred to the Committee on Military affairs.

The resolutions submitted by Mr. BARROW on Monday last, relating to a Navy Yard at Pensacola, were taken up for consideration. Mr. BARROW moved the following as a substitute for the second resolution.

And be it further resolved, &c., That the Secretary of the Navy transmit to the Senate such a plan of a dock, marine railway, or other suitable work, to be prepared by a competent civil engineer, as shall be, in the opinion of said engineer, best adapted to the locality, and afford the greatest facilities for the construction and thorough repair of ships of war, at the navy yard at Pensacola; accompanied by an estimate of the probable cost of constructing such work in the most permanent manner.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1843.

Mr. ATKINSON presented the several memorials adopted by the General Assembly of Missouri, among which were the following:

A memorial in favor of the re-establishment of the second regiment of Dragoons. Referred to the Committee on Military affairs.

A memorial asking the establishment of an additional military post between forts Scott and Leavenworth. Referred to the Committee on Military affairs.

A memorial respecting American water rotted hemp. Referred to the Committee on Naval affairs.

The following Report, which has been received from the bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography, is published for the information of navigators and others whom it may interest:

REPORT of determinations of latitude, longitude, and magnetic deviation, at several places in the Gulf of Mexico, made under the direction of Com'r. L. M. Powell, U. S. N. A. D. 1843.

The latitudes have been determined from observations on the sun and stars, made with a sextant and artificial horizon, and may be relied on within 30". More suitable instruments, and in some cases, more favorable circumstances, were requisite for greater accuracy.

The Gulf of Mexico presents two well determined meridians, which have been adopted as *secondaries*, viz:

1. The "Moro Tower," *Havana*, from fifteen selected occultations of fixed stars by the moon, compared with corresponding observations at several observatories in Europe, observed by Ferrer in 1809-12: Longitude $54^{\circ} 29' 27.5''$ or $82^{\circ} 21' 52''$ W. from Greenwich. (Mem. Royal Astrl. Soc., vol. IV.)

2. The "Balize," *mouth of the Mississippi*, (Talcott's astronomical station,) from twenty-three lunar culminations, compared with corresponding observations at Greenwich, Cambridge, and Edinburgh, observed and reduced by Capt. A. Talcott, (1839.)—

Longitude $54^{\circ} 56' 20''$ or $89^{\circ} 05' 00''$ W. of Greenwich. Between these two places we have two series of differences of longitude by chronometers, as given below. The rates and errors of the chronometers were determined at each of the places named, from equal altitudes of the sun, observed with a sextant and artificial horizon. Every precaution was used to render the circumstance of corresponding observations as nearly the same, as was practicable. The

general uniformity of the temperature during the greater part of the time occupied in this work, and the smooth sea, during the passages from port to port, conducted greatly to the accuracy of these results. The maxima and minima have been carefully estimated from the variations of rate to which each chronometer was liable, and the possible errors of observation, and may be considered as the extreme limits of the several determinations:

	Chros.	Days.	Diff. of Long. (in time.)			Max.	Min.
			H. M. S.	H. M. S.		Sec.	Sec.
Moro Tower, Havana, to Custom H. K. West,	5	2	0 02 13.0 E.			13.7	12.2
Custom H., Key W, to Light H., Tortugas,	4	2	0 04 15.0 W.			15.9	14.3
Light H., Tortugas, to Naval S., Pensacola,	4	9½	0 17 34.5			37.5	33.0
1. Moro Tower, Havana, to do. equiv't to	4	13½	-	0 19 36.5 W.		41.2	33.6
Do. to Egmont Key, Tampa Bay,	5	9	0 01 34.6			38.5	32.5
Egmont K., T. Bay, to Light H., St. Geo. Is	4	5½	0 09 19.8			21.9	18.5
Light H., St. Geo's Is., to Light H., St. Jos's.	4	2	0 01 12.2			13.3	11.2
Light H., St. Jos., to Naval Store, Pensacola,	4	2	0 07 28.8			30.2	27.6
1. Egmont Key, T. Bay, to do. equiv't to	4	9½	0 18 00.8			05.4	57.8
2. " " " (Mean) equi. to	1	2	0 18 02.2			03.7	00.7
" " " (Mean) equi. to	5	6	0 18 01.5			03.7	00.7
2. Moro Tower, Havana to do.	5	15	-	0 19 36.1 W.		42.2	33.2
" " do. (Mean)	9	14½	-	0 19 36.3		41.2	33.6
Naval Store, Pensacola, to W. end of Ship Is.	4	4	0 06 48.1			49.0	46.0
W. end Ship Is. to Balize, Talcott's Astrl. St.	4	4	0 00 32.2			34.2	31.0
1. Naval Store, Pen. to " equiv't to	4	8	0 07 20.3			23.2	17.0
2. " " " (Mean) equi. to	4	3	0 07 19.8			21.3	18.3
" " " (Mean) equi. to	8	5½	-	0 07 20.0		21.3	18.3
Moro Tower, Havana, " " " (Mean) equi. to	8	20	-	0 26 56.3		62.5	51.9

(Difference of Longitude between the same points, by occultations, 0 26 52 5)

For the magnetic deviation, numerous bearings of the sun, at nearly equal altitudes in the forenoon and afternoon (of one day only at each place) were taken with a "Prismatic Azimuth Compass."

TABLE OF LATITUDES AND LONGITUDES, &c.

	Latitudes.	No. of observations.*				Longitudes from Greenwich.		Magnetic deviation.
		Circum'n alt. of Sun.	Pair of eq'l alt. of Sun.	Alt. of Polaris.	Circum'n alt. of S. Stars.			
	deg. m. sec.					h. m. sec.	deg. m. sec.	d. m.
Key West, Custom House,	24 33 20 N.	18	12	—	—	5 27 14.5 or 81 48 37 W.	6 02 E	
Light House, (a)	24 32 32	—	—	—	—	5 27 14.0	81 48 30	
Tortugas, Light House,	24 37 20	—	—	9	8	5 31 29.5	82 52 22	6 15
Tampa Bay, N. end of Egmont Key	27 36 04	45	22	—	—	5 31 01.0	82 45 15	5 25
Gadsden's Point, (b)	27 49 19	—	—	—	—	5 29 51.7	82 27 55	
Apalachicola Bay, St. Geo. L. H.	29 37 25	—	—	9	22	5 40 21.0	85 05 15	6 18
Dog Island, Light House, (c)	29 46 20	—	—	—	—	5 38 32.6	84 38 09	
St. Joseph's Bay, Light House,	29 52 00	—	—	12	28	5 41 33.0	85 23 15	6 24
Cape St. Blas, (b)	29 37 44	—	—	—	—	5 41 23.0	85 20 45	
Pensacola Bay, Naval S., Navy Yd.	30 20 30	36	24	—	—	5 49 01.4	87 15 21	6 54
Light House, (d)	30 20 48	—	—	—	—	5 49 08.0	87 17 00	
Public Square, (d)	30 23 50	8	12	—	—	5 48 46.0	87 11 30	
Mobile Point, Light House, (e)	30 13 38	—	—	11	10	5 52 02.4	88 00 36	6 56
Ship Island, West end,	30 12 36	—	—	—	—	5 55 49.0	88 57 15	

* Observations of the sun during the winter months only.

(a) Reduced by "Whitehead's plan" of Key West.

(b) " by "surveys under Lt. Com'g Powell."

(d) " by "Kearney's survey."

(c) Latitude reduced by most recent charts: difference of longitude between the two light houses determined by 4 chros. 2 days.

(e) Diff. of longitude det'd from Pensacola by 4 chros. 2 days.

The following determinations are from Capt. A. Talcott's observations and survey at the mouths of the Mississippi.

Latitude.	Longitude.	Latitude.	Longitude.
N. E. Light House, $29^{\circ} 08' 31.9$ N.	$89^{\circ} 01' 50''$ W.	S. W. Beacon light, $28^{\circ} 58' 30.1$	$89^{\circ} 21' 52.5$
South Light House, $28^{\circ} 59' 41.3$	$89^{\circ} 07' 54''$	N. E. Light House, magnetic deviation, $8^{\circ} 15' E.$	

(Talcott's report to Topographical Bureau, January 30, 1839.)

J. H. C. COFFIN, Prof. of Mathematics, U. S. N.

Communication.

ARMY MATTERS.

The Secretary of War in his annual report says, "If the present regulation in regard to travelling expenses is found to work oppressively, it can be changed or modified by the Secretary of War without further legislation. It was adopted by my predecessor to correct what was believed to be an abuse of the former system."

I must respectfully differ from the Hon. Secretary, that no legislation on this subject is necessary, and that it can be regulated by the Secretary of War. The mileage or allowance for travelling is a matter of no trifling importance to all officers of the army. They are obliged to travel on duty or under orders, as members of Courts Martial, Courts of Inquiry, and Military Boards, in making inspections, and in changing of stations, to a great extent. They are of course subjected to considerable expense, which in the course of a year is no small item; and by the present regulation of the Secretary of War, the only portion defrayed by Government, is the actual cost of transportation and portage, except a per diem of one dollar to forage officers, and one dollar and twenty-five cents to all others when travelling as members of Courts Martial and Courts of Inquiry. With the above exception, every journey an officer performs by order of, and on duty for the Government, he is necessarily subjected to an expense for meals and lodging of about two dollars per day, to say nothing of the wear and tear of clothing, &c. It is perfectly evident that this, to any grade, is "oppressive," but more particularly so to Second Lieutenants, who receive, all told, but sixty five dollars per month.

I do not contend that all of an officer's expenses should be borne while travelling, but I *do* contend that he should not be subjected to more expense while absent on duty, than he would have been during the same time at his post. An officer's mess bill at his post seldom exceeds fifteen dollars per month, and I would ask, is it reasonable or just that he should be obliged to pay while absent, performing, perhaps, some important and responsible duty, sixty dollars for the same period?

Previous to the present regulation, officers of the army received ten cents per mile while travelling. This amount is certainly no more than adequate to reimburse them for their necessary expenses, when it is considered that they are compelled to travel in every state and territory of the Union, in some of which, the actual cost of transportation exceeds this amount, and that the average cost on those routes over which officers are obliged to travel, is between seven and eight cents. The Hon. Secretary does not pretend to say that the allowance of ten cents was too great, but that it was altered to correct what was believed to be an abuse of it. I candidly admit that the former system was subject to abuse, but it could only have been so by a very few officers, and by those only who were permitted to travel without receiving for each journey an order from a superior, or rather by those who are authorized to perform

journeys on public service by the "regulations for the army." These officers constitute an extremely small portion of the whole number in the army (716,) and although, by the adoption of the present regulation their cases have been effectually reached, it has at the same time inflicted a severe punishment upon the whole body. This abuse could have been as surely corrected by directing that those officers should submit their transportation accounts before payment, to the chiefs of their Departments, or to the Commanding General, and unless fully approved by them, should be disallowed.

Now I would ask, if a matter which so deeply concerns every officer of the army should be left to be regulated by the will or caprice of the Secretaries of War? They remain in office scarcely sufficient time to become acquainted with the details of the service, and are so frequently changed, that the regulation of travelling allowance by one, might be as extravagant, and as unjust to Government, as that of another might be parsimonious, and oppressive to officers.

What possible objection is there in having a matter of so much importance and which involves so much expense fixed by Congress? On the contrary, is there not an obvious propriety in it? for who are more capable of judging of an allowance of this kind than members of Congress, who travel yearly from every section of the country? They have very justly fixed the allowance of officers of the navy at ten cents per mile, and why should not the officers of the army, who travel much more, be placed on the same footing?

H. F. Z.

U. S. SHIP VINCENNES.—The editor of the Pensacola Gazette, speaking of the U. S. ship Vincennes, which sailed from that port recently on a cruise in the Gulf of Mexico, uses the following complimentary language relative to her commander, officers and crew:

A quiet, but most judicious and effectual discipline governs every thing on board the Vincennes; and the utmost harmony and good will existing between the officers and between them and the men, is a sure indication that the moral power which directs and governs the whole is of the right kind, and is applied in the most appropriate manner.

By what art it is, that Captain Buchanan and his officers have been able to perfect and maintain so admirable a system, we are not able to explain. But we know the fact, that his men have proved themselves to be the most orderly and sober of any crews, not even excepting the French, which have ever been in this port. And as the ship has remained some months during the past year in the harbor, most of the time near the town, and yet no instance of disorder or even drunkenness has been seen or heard of by any of our citizens, the mind is naturally led to the conclusion that it is the existence of high qualities in those in command, and the exertion of a most prudent but firm and judicious, discipline alone, which could produce such results.

Revenue Service.**LIST OF OFFICERS,
CORRECTED TO JANUARY 3, 1844.****Captains.**

Name.	Where born.	Date of commission.	Name of vessel
J. A. Webster,	Md.,	Nov. 22, 1819,	Forward.
W. Foster,	Va.,	Mar. 22, 1821,	Woodbury
H. D. Hunter,	Penn.,	Nov. 15, 1824,	Ewing.
W. W. Polk,	Md.,	July 25, 1825,	Duane.
A. Mather,	Conn.,	April 4, 1829,	Waiting ord.
R. Day,	N. Y.,	June 2, 1832,	Crawford.
E. Jones,	Mass.,	Jan. 4, 1833,	Morris.
T. C. Rudolph,	Ga.,	June 2, 1834,	Jackson.
G. Currier,	N. H.,	April 20, 1838,	Sick.
C. Walden,	Me.,	Nov. 21, 1838,	Nautilus.
H. B. Nones,	Va.,	Dec. 14, 1838,	Van Buren.
J. Sturgis,	Mass.,	Dec. 14, 1838,	Hamilton.
H. Prince, jr.,	Mass.,	Oct. 24, 1839,	Wolcott.
J. Whitcomb,	Me.,	Dec. 9, 1839,	Alert.
G. Knapp,	Mass.,	Mar. 15, 1841,	Erie.
L. C. F. Fatio,	Penn.,	May 12, 1841,	Taney.
M. Conner,	Penn.,	Jan. 19, 1842,	Waiting ord.
A. V. Fraser,	N. Y.,	Feb. 1, 1842,	Bureau at
W. A. Howard,	Me.,	Dec. 19, 1842,	Special duty.
R. Evans,	Va.,	July 20, 1843,	Madison.

First Lieutenants.

N. L. Coste,	S. C.,	Jan. 4, 1833,	Van Buren.
W. B. Whitehead,	Va.,	June 11, 1834,	Crawford.
G. Moore,	Md.,	Feb. 10, 1836,	Special duty.
Levi C. Harby,	S. C.,	July 5, 1836,	Reve. boat, St. Mary's.
John J. Nimmo,	Va.,	April 23, 1838,	Woodbury.
D. Ottinger,	Penn.,	Aug. 6, 1838,	Special duty.
Thomas Sands,	Md.,	Nov. 21, 1838,	Taney.
T. Stoddard,	Mass.,	Dec. 14, 1838,	Alert.
F. Martin,	N. Y.,	July 24, 1839,	Ewing.
S. Cornell,	R. I.,	Oct. 24, 1839,	Jackson.
J. A. Noyes,	Me.,	Oct. 24, 1839,	Special duty.
J. McGowan,	Penn.,	Feb. 17, 1841,	Special duty.
J. H. Roach,	Me.,	Feb. 17, 1841,	Forward.
G. Clarke,	Va.,	Nov. 17, 1842,	Nautilus.
J. B. Fulton,	Va.,	Mar. 4, 1843,	Morris.
J. S. S. Chaddock,	Me.,	Aug. 28, 1843,	Special duty.
B. Digges,	Md.,	Aug. 28, 1843,	Wolcott.
S. C. Foss,	N. H.,	Aug. 23, 1843,	Reve. boat, Castine.
J. J. Morrison,	Ga.,	Aug. 28, 1843,	Madison.
C. Prouty,	Mass.,	Dec. 16, 1843,	Hamilton.

Second Lieutenants.

S. Thatcher,	Conn.,	Jan. 18, 1831,	Sick.
G. Berryman,	Penn.,	Aug. 6, 1838,	Erie.
A. Burrough,	N. J.,	Dec. 14, 1838,	Morris.
Osmond Peters,	Va.,	July 24, 1839,	Van Buren.
J. Amazeen,	N. H.,	Dec. 9, 1839,	Madison.
W. Norris,	R. I.,	Feb. 17, 1841,	Wolcott.
J. Faunce,	Mass.,	June 5, 1841,	Forward.
W. B. McLean,	N. Y.,	Sept. 24, 1842,	Woodbury.
H. H. Greene,	N. H.,	Nov. 17, 1842,	Hamilton.
J. L. Prouty,	Mass.,	Mar. 4, 1843,	Duane.
W. Pease,	Mass.,	Mar. 4, 1843,	Van Buren.
C. W. Bennett,	Del.,	Mar. 4, 1843,	Special duty.
J. L. Stull,	Md.,	Mar. 4, 1843,	Bureau at Wash'ton.
W. M. Wilson,	S. C.,	Mar. 4, 1843,	Crawford.
N. Austin,	R. I.,	Mar. 4, 1843,	Nautilus.
J. M. Jones,	Md.,	Aug. 28, 1843,	Jackson.
G. Hayes, jr.,	Me.,	Dec. 16, 1843,	Alert.
J. H. Jones,	Del.,	Dec. 16, 1843,	Wolcott.
R. K. Hudgins,	Va.,	Dec. 16, 1843,	Taney.
J. T. Stoncall,	N. Y.,	Dec. 20, 1843,	Ewing.

Third Lieutenants.

J. A. Webster, jr.,	Md.,	Nov. 17, 1842,	Taney.
J. Murch,	Del.,	Jan. 16, 1843,	Forward.
W. H. Brown,	Mass.,	Jan. 17, 1843,	Ewing.
J. Hendren,	Va.,	Jan. 26, 1843,	Ewing.
R. S. Jones,	Va.,	Jan. 27, 1843,	Madison.
E. C. Kennedy,	Va.,	Jan. 28, 1843,	Morris.
W. R. Pierce,	Va.,	Jan. 30, 1843,	Wolcott.
W. S. Bell,	Va.,	Feb. 6, 1843,	Duane.
C. L. Collier,	Va.,	Mar. 1, 1843,	Crawford.
H. J. Benson,	Conn.,	Mar. 6, 1843,	Erie.
C. Saunders,	N. C.,	Mar. 6, 1843,	Jackson.
B. W. Fobel,	Va.,	Mar. 6, 1843,	Woodbury.
C. F. Wood,	Dis. Col.,	Mar. 6, 1843,	Hamilton.
H. Parmelee,	Conn.,	Mar. 7, 1843,	Woodbury.
K. S. Woodward,	Conn.,	Mar. 11, 1843,	Nautilus.
H. N. Tracy,	Conn.,	July 20, 1843,	Alert.
W. Handy,	Dis. Col.,	Nov. 24, 1843,	Van Buren.
B. J. Kellum,	Va.,	Dec. 16, 1843,	Taney.
Samuel Smith,	Md.,	Dec. 16, 1843,	Crawford.

LIST OF WARRANT OFFICERS.**Pilots.**

Names.	Place of birth.	Date of warrant	Stations.
R. Ryder,	N. Y.,	Oct. 4, 1843,	New York.
H. Lewis,	Mass.,	Oct. 11, 1843,	Newport.
I. S. Sanner,	Md.,	Oct. 11, 1843,	Baltimore.
S. Church,	Phila.,	Oct. 19, 1843,	Savannah.
J. Egan,	FFda.,	Oct. 19, 1843,	Key West.

Boatswains.

J. Welsh,	Ireland,	Oct. 4, 1843,	New York.
J. J. Butcher,	Eng.,	Oct. 5, 1843,	Boston.
J. Kreuger,	Mass.,	Oct. 5, 1843,	Eastport.
S. Ward,	R. I.,	Oct. 11, 1843,	Newport.
J. Harvey,	Eng.,	Oct. 11, 1843,	Delaware.
J. S. Williams,	Md.,	Oct. 11, 1843,	Baltimore.
J. Webber,	Eng.,	Oct. 11, 1843,	Norfolk.
E. Butler,	Eng.,	Oct. 19, 1843,	Savannah.
A. W. White,	Penn.,	Oct. 19, 1843,	Presque Isle
G. Stoddard,	Mass.,	Oct. 27, 1843,	Charleston.
J. Miller,	Scotland,	Nov. 9, 1843,	Pitts'g stea'r.
W. G. Foster,	Eng.,	Nov. 10, 1843,	Morris.
W. Austin,	N. J.,	Dec. 23, 1843,	Oswego ste'r.

Gunners.

G. A. Booth,	Ireland,	Oct. 4, 1843,	New York.
A. Jones,	Mass.,	Oct. 5, 1843,	Boston.
J. Saddler,	Me.,	Oct. 5, 1843,	Eastport.
J. Smith,	Ireland,	Oct. 11, 1843,	Newport.
W. Spear,	Eng.,	Oct. 11, 1843,	Delaware.
W. Mears,	Md.,	Oct. 11, 1843,	Baltimore.
D. Ross,	Md.,	Oct. 19, 1843,	Savannah.
G. S. Neath,	Penn.,	Oct. 19, 1843,	Key West.
G. W. Smith,	Md.,	Oct. 27, 1843,	Charleston.
J. Rankin,	Ireland,	Nov. 9, 1843,	Oswego ste'r.
M. Adams,	N. Y.,	Nov. 9, 1843,	Pitts'g ste'r.
B. Mitchell,	Me.,	Nov. 20, 1844,	Morris.
H. Ward,	N. Y.,	Nov. 29, 1843,	Taney.

Carpenters.

P. C. Green,	N. Y.,	Oct. 4, 1843,	New York.
L. L. Sopher,	Me.,	Oct. 4, 1843,	Portland.
F. Gibson,	Denmark,	Oct. 5, 1843,	Boston.
A. Winchester,	N. S.,	Oct. 5, 1843,	Eastport.
L. Butler,	Mass.,	Oct. 11, 1843,	Newport.
W. H. Harley,	Md.,	Oct. 11, 1843,	Delaware.
E. North,	Md.,	Oct. 11, 1843,	Baltimore.
J. P. Jarvis,	Va.,	Oct. 11, 1843,	Norfolk.
T. Booth,	Eng.,	Oct. 19, 1843,	Savannah.
A. M. Tarbell,	Penn.,	Oct. 19, 1843,	Erie.
E. A. Patterson,	Ga.,	Oct. 27, 1843,	Charleston.

LIST OF REVENUE VESSELS AND STATIONS.

Alert,	Eastport,	Dist. of Passamaquoddy.
Morris,	Portland,	Portland.
Hamilton,	Boston,	Boston.

Jackson,	Newport,	Newport.
Madison,	New London,	New London.
Ewing,	New York,	New York.
Wolcott,	Baltimore,	Baltimore.
Forward,	Wilmington,	Delaware.
Taney,	Norfolk,	Norfolk.
Van Buren,	Charleston,	Charleston.
Crawford,	Savannah,	Savannah.
Nautilus,	Key West,	Key West.
Duane,	Mobile,	Mobile.
Woodbury,	New Orleans,	New Orleans.
Erie,	Lake Erie,	Presque Isle.
REVENUE BOATS COMMANDED BY REVENUE OFFICERS.		
Veto,	Castine,	Castine.
Active,	Lake Ontario,	Sackett's Harb'r.
Ingham,	St. Mary's,	St. Mary's.

ARMY.

Assistant Surgeon Van Buren, assigned to duty in Washington.

Naval Intelligence.

The brig *Truxtun*, Lieut. Com'dt Goo. P. Upshur, arrived in Hampton Roads on Wednesday night, and came up yesterday to the naval anchorage. The *Truxtun* has had a passage of 41 days from Gibraltar. Touched at Mahon on her way down from Constantinople, and left at the former, Nov. 10, ship *Delaware*, Commodore Morris, and sloop of war *Fairfield*, Commodore Downing. The *Delaware* expected to sail for the U. S. probably on the 1st of January, about which time the frigate *Cumberland*, Capt. Smith, was looked for.

The *Truxtun* has on board the remains of Commodore Porter, originally destined for interment near Philadelphia; but in consequence of the earnest desire of his family (now at Constantinople) that they should be interred at Washington, Lieut. Upshur has thought it most advisable to put into this port and await the further orders of the Navy Department.

The officers and crew of the *Truxtun* have all returned in her, and are in excellent health.

List of Officers.—G. P. Upshur, Esq., Lt. Com'g; Lieutenants, Oliver H. Perry, Edwin J. DeHaven, James H. Strong; Acting Master, Edward Donaldson; Passed Assistant Surgeon, Charles D. Maxwell; Purser, Arthur W. Upshur; Midshipmen, Somerville Nicholson, Charles C. Simms, Robert Selden, Benjamin F. Wells, Henry Willis; Boatswain, William Smith; Gunner, John Caulk; Carpenter, William D. Jenkins.—*Norfolk Herald*.

The brig *Oregon* arrived at New York from Pensacola on the 26th ultimo.

BRAZIL SQUADRON.—The frigate *Columbia* and schooner *Enterprise* were at Montevideo Oct. 12.

EAST INDIA SQUADRON.—The frigate *Brandywine*, Commodore Parker was at Bombay about the 31st July, waiting the arrival of Hon. Caleb Cushing, minister to China.

AFRICAN SQUADRON.—The sloop-of-war *Decatur*, Commander Abbot, was at Port Praya, Cape de Verdes, on the 12th October, and would sail in company with the flag ship *Macedonian*, Commodore Perry, the same night for the coast.

Marriages.

At Pittsburgh, on the 19th December, Lieutenant THOS. J. RODMAN, U. S. Army, to MARTHA, daughter of Rev. Dr. JOHN BLACK.

At Norfolk, on the 26th ult., Commander DAVID D. FARSIGUT, of the U. S. Navy, to Miss VIRGINIA D., daughter of William Loyall, Esq., of that borough.

OFFICE OF U. S. CLOTHING AND EQUIPAGE, }
Philadelphia, Nov. 25th, 1843. }

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this office, until 10 o'clock, A. M., of the TENTH DAY OF JANUARY NEXT, for furnishing by contract, the following Army Supplies and Materials, deliverable at the United States Clothing and Equipage Depot, Schuylkill Arsenal, in equal monthly proportions, on or before the 1st day of July, 1844,

viz:—
4,000 Army Blankets, 6½ feet long, 5 feet wide, weight 4 lbs.
35,000 yards 6.4 Sky Blue (twilled) Cloth.
10,000 " 6.4 Fine Blue "
1,000 " 6.4 " (water proof.)
50,000 " 7.8 Flannel, Cotton and Wool.
30,000 " 3.4 Canton Flannel.
6,000 " 3.4 Bleached Cotton Drilling.
10,000 " 3.4 Unbleached " "
5,000 " 7-8 " " "
60,000 " 7-8 " " Shirting.
5,000 " 7-8 Bleached " "
4,000 Uniform Caps, Dragoon and Infantry.
Hair Plumes, Red and White.
Bands and Tassels for Dragoons.
Metal Cap Equipments for Dragoons, Artillery and Infantry.
Pompons, Artillery and Infantry.
Shoulder Straps, Artillery and Infantry.
" " (brass) for Dragoons.
Epaulettes, N. C. S., Artillery and Infantry!
Worsted Sashes, Crimson and Yellow.
" Binding and Cord of all kinds.
Buttons, Dragoon, Ordnance, Artillery and Infantry, vest.
" Infantry, coat.
10,000 pairs of Laced Bootees, 3 sizes (large.)
2,800 doz. pairs Woollen Half Stockings, 3 sizes.
Colors—National.
" Regimental, Artillery and Infantry
" Camp, " "
" Guidous, Dragoons.
Felling Axes.
Hatchets.
Spades.
Drums, complete, Artillery and Infantry.
Casks for 1 year, from 1st April next.

All of which must be of domestic manufacture, and must conform in quality, and all other respects, to the standard patterns, sealed in this office, by which all supplies furnished on contracts will be tested, samples of which for woollen and cotton cloths will be sent by mail, with any additional information upon the subject, which may be desired by manufacturers wishing to offer proposals.

Contracts will be based upon *accepted proposals*: for the faithful fulfilment of which two or more securities will be required. Letters containing proposals should be endorsed, "*proposals to furnish supplies and materials*," and addressed to

HENRY STANTON,
Assistant Quartermaster General, U. S. A.

AGENCY FOR CLAIMS AT WASHINGTON.—The Undersigned offers his services as Agent for Claims upon either of the Departments or Congress.

Particular attention will be paid to the settlement of accounts of disbursing Officers, who may find it inconvenient to attend personally; especially those of the Navy. His experience and practical knowledge will afford many facilities.

Charges will be moderate and regulated by the amount claimed and the extent of services required. Communications (post paid) will receive immediate attention.

CHAS. DE SELDING,

Office, Sixth-street, next to corner of F.

References.—Commodore Charles Stewart, Commodore John Downes, A. O. Dayton, Esq., 4th Auditor, Treasury Department; A. T. Smith, Esq., Chief Clerk, Navy Department; John C. Rives, Esq., Washington; John Boyle, Esq., Washington; James Hoban, Esq., Washington; Chas. O. Handy, Esq., Purser, U. S. N.; John De Bree, Esq., Purser, U. S. N.; R. R. Waldron, Esq., Purser U. S. N.; Saml. P. Todd, Esq., Purser, U. S. N.